

Message Text

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ACTION AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 /020 W
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P R 231834Z NOV 76
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC 8043

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DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, BU, US, OTRA
SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF T. ARMSTRONG, SPECIAL ADVISOR TO THE
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
REF: SOFIA 2483

FOLLOWING OUR THREE PAGE LETTER OF OCTOBER 27 TO
AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE FOR BULGARIA WHICH SET OUT PURPOSE
OF ARMSTRONG VISIT AND PROPOSED DATES, WE SUBSEQUENTLY
RECEIVED A DETAILED SCHEDULE FROM ATTACHE. WE ASSUMED
THAT THE DATES AND VISIT HAD BEEN CO-ORDINATED BETWEEN
SOFIA AND ATHENS. INFO COPY TO SOFIA WAS COURTESY TO
CONFIRM ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES.
WE REGRET THE MIX-UP.

PURPOSE OF VISIT IS TO DISCUSS WITH EMBASSY STAFF AND
KNOWLEDGEABLE BULGARIAN OFFICIALS, MEDIUM-TERM LIVESTOCK
DEVELOPMENT PLANS INCLUDING LARGE SCALE LIVESTOCK
OPERATIONS. WE CURRENTLY ARE ENDEAVOURING TO PUT TO-
GETHER LIST OF KEY BULGARIAN LIVESTOCK SPECIALISTS AND
WILL CABLE INFO. A.S.A.P.

ARMSTRONG HAS HAD TWO MEETINGS HERE IN LONDON WITH MR.
GEORGE ABBOT OF KARNIS LTD (A SUBSIDIARY OF S & W
BERISFORD LTD), WHO HAVE BID ON THE SILESTRA PROJECT AND
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WERE RE-APPROACHED BY THE BULGARIANS EARLIER THIS MONTH

TO UNDERTAKE A NUMBER OF ON-SITE INVESTIGATIONS.

ABBOT HAS PROVIDED EXTENSIVE INFORMATION ON THEIR PLANNING, PERCEPTIONS AND ASSESSMENTS OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN BULGARIA. GIVEN THE SUBSTANTIAL INVOLVEMENT ALSO OF ESMARK IN BULGARIAN LIVESTOCK PLANNING, WE FELT A DISCUSSION WITH EMBASSY STAFF COULD BE USEFUL IN CLARIFYING SEVERAL AREAS OF CONCERN ABOUT PRESENT AND

FUTURE CONTRACTS.

TRIP IS PART OF WIDER STUDY FOCUSING ON THE LIVESTOCK-FEED COMPLEX IN EASTERN AND WESTERN EUROPE, AND POTENTIAL OF EASTERN EUROPE TO EXPAND PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS TO WEST. THIS COULD HAVE SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT NOT ONLY ON DEVELOPMENT OF MARKETING EFFORT, BUT FUTURE OF U.S. AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS. REPORT ON RECENT TRIP TO POLAND, HUNGARY, AND W. GERMANY WILL BE MAILED TODAY.

AGAIN WE REGRET MIX-UP AND WILL AWAIT YOUR SUGGESTIONS OR COMMENTS.

ARMSTRONG

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